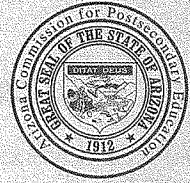


# Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education

...expanding access and increasing success in postsecondary education



## Student Financial Assistance Programs

- Administer more than 5,800 state/federal grants representing more than \$ 6.8M annually for students attending Arizona public and private universities. More than 3,900 grants went to low-income students.
- Administer student loan repayments for the PEG and PFAP forgivable loan programs.
- In July 2011 will begin administration of the Math, Science and Special Education Teacher Loan Forgiveness student financial aid program.
- Administer the Arizona Family College Savings Program (529) which holds more than \$517M in assets, representing more than 55,000 accounts; accounts are managed by three trusted and experienced financial institutions.
- Serve as the forum for private and public postsecondary education leaders to identify common problems and opportunities focused on students.

## College Access Programs and Publications

- Coordinate the 15th annual College Goal Sunday on February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 where more than 4,000 students and parents are expected to complete the FAFSA aided by more than 400 financial aid professionals at 30 statewide sites.
- Over 24,000 students and parents received line by line FAFSA assistance via the College Goal Sunday website in month of the event.
- Provide higher education venues, such as the *Developing Arizona's Human Capital* conference where educators, policy makers, and business leaders come together to focus on higher education issues.
- Sponsor the Arizona Minority Education Policy Analysis Center (AMEPAC) to foster dialogue through issue-based research studies. Recent publications include "To Learn and Earn: A Race To Good Jobs" and the Arizona Minority Student Report, 2009, 2007, 2005 & 2003 and The Road to Higher Education: Closing the Participation Gaps for Arizona Students, 2006.
- Sponsor "Pathways to Higher Education Awards" to encourage best practices in college access.
- Offer students and parents print and web-based information such as Rapid Guide to Financial Aid and the Arizona College and Career Guide.
- Raise \$190,000-\$250,000 in donations, sales, and grants to fund college-going programs and publications annually.
- Host college access websites receiving 105,000 + visits annually:

[www.azhighered.gov](http://www.azhighered.gov) | [www.amepac.org](http://www.amepac.org) | [www.az529.gov](http://www.az529.gov) | [www.pay4college.gov](http://www.pay4college.gov)  
[www.azgrants.gov](http://www.azgrants.gov) | [www.collegegoalsunday.com](http://www.collegegoalsunday.com)

## **Arizona Family College Savings Program (AFCSP)**

The AFCSP Oversight Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Commissioners of the ACPE that include, but are not limited to, the addition or termination of AFCSP program managers, investment options, proposed rules, and annual review of contracted AFCSP program managers who provide mutual funds and banking investments for college savings.

### **529 Plan**

A 529 Plan is an education savings plan operated by a state of Arizona designed to help families set aside funds for future college costs. It is named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code which created these types of savings plans in 1998. Tax Permanency Legislation provided through the Pension Protection Act of 2006 made permanent the federal tax exclusion for qualified 529 plan distributions.

### **AFCSP Mission**

To assist Arizona families to financially prepare for postsecondary education by providing quality college savings choices.

### **AFCSP Overview**

- Began accepting accounts in 1999
- Currently holds more than 55,000 accounts and greater than \$517M in Assets under Management
- Oversight provided by a 10 member Committee comprised of financial and legal experts
- One of 49 state plans in the nation
- One of only 4 states that offer a universal state tax deduction
- Currently holds in excess of 11,000 AZ accounts; realizing a 20% growth year-over-year

### **AFCSP Advantages and Benefits**

#### **Advantages to Arizona Families:**

- Provides a vehicle for families to save for education expenses
- Encourages more families to plan and invest in their child's education
- Potential hedge against the increasing cost of a college education
- Account earnings grow tax-deferred and no Federal or Arizona income taxes paid on qualified distributions
- Savings can be used at USDE accredited colleges, universities or vocational schools nationwide, as well as eligible foreign institutions

#### **Benefits of the Arizona Family College Savings Plan:**

- Professional money management by three experienced and trusted financial institutions
  - *College Savings Bank* (Direct-sold)
  - *Fidelity Investments* (Direct-sold)
  - *Waddell & Reed* (Advisor-sold)
- One of the most diverse plans in the country with investment options including CDs, age-based mutual fund portfolios, static portfolios, and index and actively managed portfolios
- Arizona 529 Plan assets are excluded when determining Arizona financial aid awards
- Tax incentive allows Arizona families to deduct contributions made to any state's 529 plan
- An account can be opened with as little as \$15 per month